

**FOR CONTRACT NO.: 08-0P8604  
PROJECT ID: 0800020038**

## **INFORMATION HANDOUT**

### **CALTRANS INFORMATION BROCHURE**

**PROTECTION OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY FRINGE-TOED LIZARD  
(UMA INORNATA)  
DURING LIMITED SCOPE PROJECT**

**ROUTE: 08-Riv-10-44.5/R52.2**

***Caltrans***  
**Information Brochure**

**Protection  
Of the  
Coachella Valley  
Fringe-toed lizard  
(*Uma inornata*)  
During  
LIMITED SCOPE  
PROJECTS**

# **THE COACHELLA VALLEY FRINGE-TOED LIZARD**

**(A FEDERALLY THREATENED AND STATE ENDANGERED SPECIES)**

## **“IS PROTECTED BY LAW”**

**ANY UNAUTHORIZED PERSON  
WHO COLLECTS, HANDLES  
OR DELIBERATELY HARMS A  
FRINGE-TOED LIZARD  
CAN  
BE  
PROSECUTED**

**VIOLATIONS CAN RESULT IN**

- 1) FINES UP TO \$50,000**
- AND/OR**
- 2) IMPRISONMENT UP TO 1 YEAR**

***APPLICABLE LAWS INCLUDE:***

The Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973  
(16 U.S.C. 1531-1543)

And

The California Endangered Species Act

THIS BROCHURE IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE  
TO AVOID VIOLATION OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACTS

### **RESOURCE AGENCY FORMAL CONSULTATION**

Limited scope projects normally have a low risk of encountering or harming a Fringe-toed lizard and no "TAKE" is anticipated. Therefore, Formal Consultation between Caltrans and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the federal Endangered Species Act has not been undertaken for this project to authorize "TAKE" during the conduct of this project.

**"TAKE" is defined as:**

**Harassing, Harming, Pursuing, Hunting, Shooting, Wounding, Killing, Capturing, Collecting, or attempting to engage in any such conduct. Engaging in any of these activities can place you in violation of the law. Fringe-toed lizards found within Caltrans Right of Way are not exempt from this protection.**

### **What does the fringed-toed lizard look like and where would I find one**

Historically, the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard habitat was Sand Dunes. The sand dunes often are referred to as "Blowsand habitat". This particular habitat consists of fine sand that accumulates at the bottom of drainages across the Coachella Valley by high winds that continually blow through the area. The lizard often occurs in burrows of sand hummocks/dunes. This habitat is essential to the long-term survival of the lizard. Also note the temperature at which lizard actively tends to be reduced is 102 degrees, during which time the lizards are more likely to be in their burrows. Please refer to pages 5-8 to view the photographs detailing the lizard.

### **Why is the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard endangered?**

The Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard is threatened by a continual loss of habitat from human development. The majority of the lizard's historic habitat has been eliminated or degraded because of the direct and indirect effects of development. Structures erected on the sand transport corridor areas and the introduction of non-native, invasive plant species, such as tamarisk, are stabilizing the once free moving sand deposits, preventing the continued replenishment of the "blowsand" habitat which the lizard relies on for its long-term survival.

## **WHAT TO DO AND NOT DO**

**CHECK UNDER MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT & VEHICLES** – that have been parked over night or stationary for some length of time before moving the vehicle.

**CHECK AROUND MATERIAL STACKS & UNITS** - that have been stored in the open before moving them.

**VISUALLY CHECK AROUND THE WORK AREA** – for the presence of live fringe-toed lizards that may have wandered into the disturbance zone. It is not intended to divert your attention from your work tasks and create a hazard for you or others on the job, but it is good practice to utilize a few moments and visually scan the area around you when it is safe to do so.

**IF A FRINGE-TOED LIZARD IS PRESENT** – stop all work activities that could harm the FRINGE-TOED LIZARD and contact the Resident Engineer or designated contact person, or on-site biologist to have the lizard removed to safety. Contact your supervisor (contractor's) for direction on proceeding with work activities.

**(DO NOT HANDLE OR MOVE A FRINGE-TOED LIZARD** – yourself. Only a qualified biologist is authorized to do so.

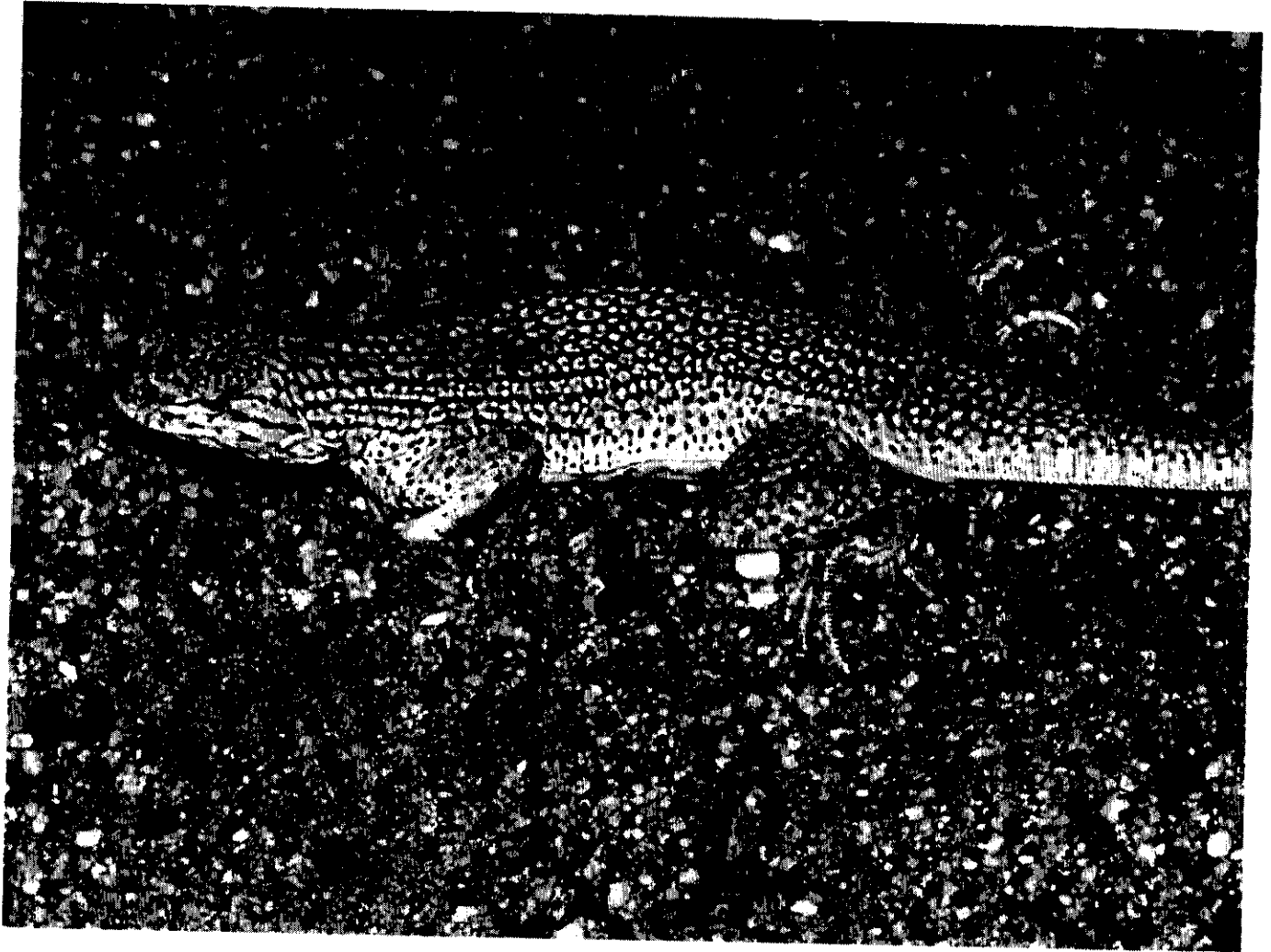
**DISPOSITION OF SICK, INJURED, OR DEAD SPECIMENS** - The Service's Divisions of Law Enforcement, San Diego, California (619) 557-5063 is to be notified within three days should any Fringe-toed lizard(s) be found sick, injured, or dead in the project area. The Service's Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office should be notified concurrently at (760) 431-9440. Written notification to both offices must be made within five calendar days and include the collection date and time, location of lizard(s), and any other pertinent information. Care must be taken in handling sick or injured lizard(s) to ensure effective treatment and care, and in handling dead specimens to preserve biological material in the best possible state. The remains of intact fringe-toed lizard (s) shall be placed with educational or research institutions holding appropriate state and federal permits.

**OBEY THE 25-MPH SPEED LIMIT** – on unpaved access roads.

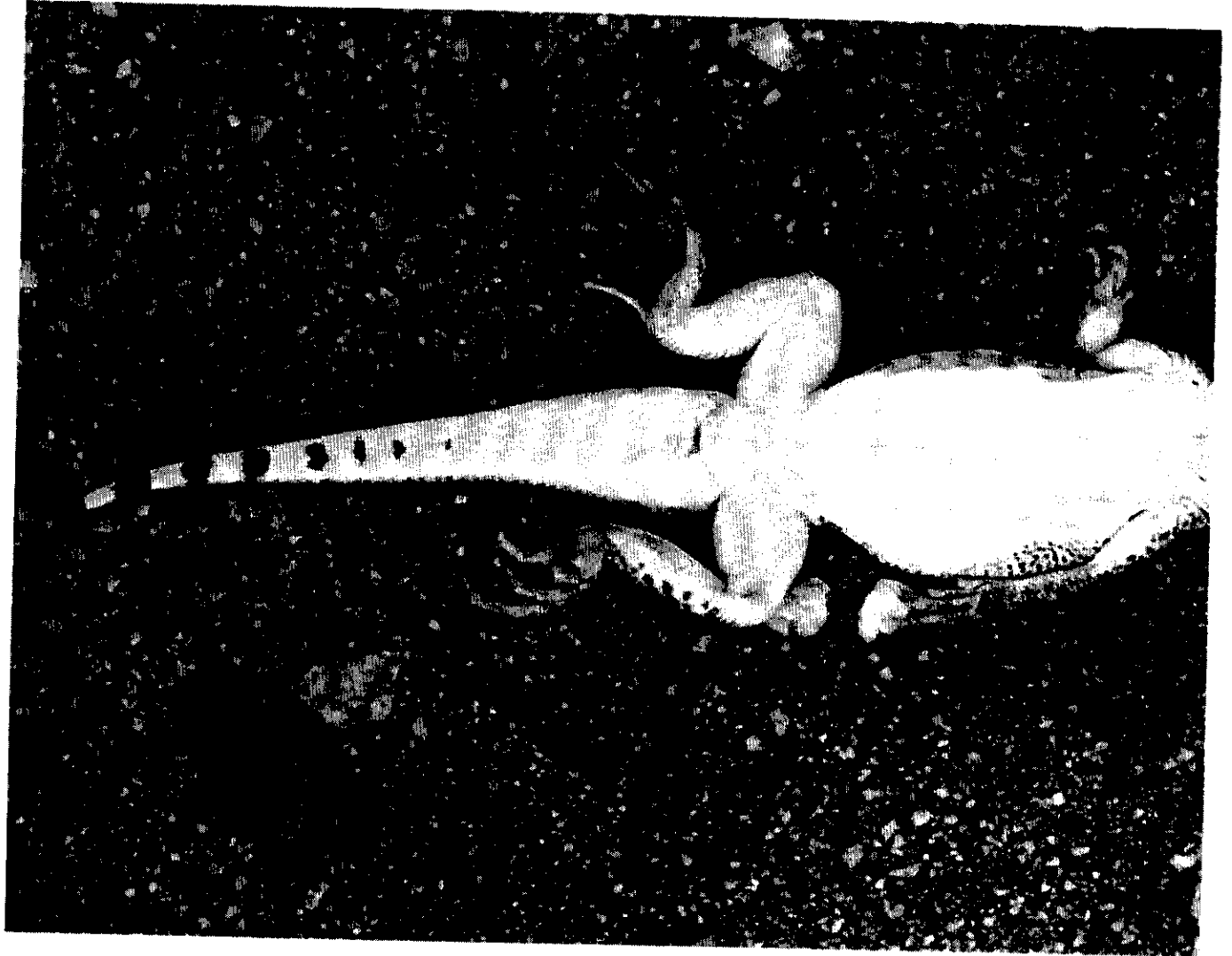
**HELP MAKE THE LITTER CONTROL REQUIREMENTS ON THIS PROJECT** – work by using the closeable trash containers to dispose of left over food scraps, wrappers, cans bottles, etc., or secure and remove them from the project with you when you leave the job site. The purpose of litter control is to avoid attracting Ravens, which are highly efficient hunters and killers of Fringe-toed lizard(s).

**DO NOT NEEDLESSLY VENTURE OUT OF THE DESIGNATED WORK AREA** – into adjoining habitat areas unless directed to do so after the area has been approved for such activity. Doing so disturbs habitat which is also protected under the Endangered Species Act. **STAY WITHIN ESTABLISHED ESA.**

**ASK YOUR SUPERVISOR** - if any other environmentally related special provisions have been placed in the contract that you should know about. We do recommend that environmental protection measures be reiterated and discussed at on-site "tail gate" meetings with safety and other project related issues brought up by your supervisor(s).



**ADULT MALE, RIVERSIDE COUNTY**



**UNDER-BOTTOM SIDE SHOWING DETAILED MARKINGS**



**FRINGES ON TOES OF REAR FOOT**





**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION  
AND CARE  
IN KEEPING WITH AMERICA'S DESIRE TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT**

(Limited Scope Project)

Fringe-toed lizard Brochure Page 8 of 8